

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03887 241237 Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SY-10 OPR-02 FBO-01 SS-15 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 M-03 A-01 /069 W

----- 017650

P 241215 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1015

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 3887

FOR EA/ EX AND A/ SY ASS' T SECY GENTILE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, CB

SUBJECT: PHYSICAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

1. AS EMBASSY LOCATED WITHIN FEW HUNDRED METERS OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, LIKELIHOOD OF EMBASSY COMING UNDER DIRECT OR INDIRECT ATTACK HAS INCREASED AS A RESULT OF RECENT ENEMY ADVANCES.

2. BELIEVE IT NOW PRUDENT THAT EMBASSY TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO MINIMIZE CASUALTIES WHICH COULD RESULT IN EVENT OF AN ATTACK. SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE HAS DRAWN ON EXPERTISE OF MEDTC ORDNANCE AND ENGINEER PERSONNEL, AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDS CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE BLAST WALLS ALONG EAST AND WEST FACES OF CHANCERY, REINFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN INTERIOR WALLS, AND CONSTRUCTION OF SECURITY CONTROL BARRIERS IN LOBBY AND SIX REINFORCED CONCRETE GUARD KIOSKS IN COURTYARD. BLAST WALL CAN BE BLENDED INTO EMBASSY EXTERIOR WITHOUT TOO WARLIKE AN APPEARANCE AND CONCRETE KIOSKS REPLACE LESS SOLID ONES IN THREE CASES. THUS PUBLIC IMPACT OF NEW CONSTRUCTION NEED NOT BE UNSETTLING. FIRM BIDS NOT RECEIVED AT THIS TIME BUT PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES PLACE COSTS IN RANGE OF \$30,000.

4. DEPT REQUESTED TO RESERVE SAS FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT,
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 03887 241237 Z

INFORMING EMBASSY BY PRIORITY TELEGRAM SO THAT WORK CAN
COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER BIDS RECEIVED AND EVALUATED.
WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD START CONSTRUCTION APRIL 30.
SWANK

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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